

## CHAPTER 11

# COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES



## City of Liberty Lake Comprehensive Plan

## A. Introduction

The City of Liberty Lake understands that building the infrastructure for human needs is just as important as building the physical infrastructure of the city. The provision of these service programs and services is a joint effort among private and public agencies, which requires a coordinated approach to meet the community's needs. This element is embodied in a section of the City's vision statement as follows: "Our community will achieve its quality of life by creating a safe, friendly environment in which community involvement promotes recreational opportunities and civic pride. Liberty Lake encourages and supports leading edge technology and a



progressive business environment, which ensures a diverse, prosperous and financially secure community." To achieve the vision, the City's primary role is to serve as a catalyst working with community churches, businesses, schools, and civic groups to help build a comprehensive set of community and human services providing for the basic needs of the City's residents aimed at enhancing personal and community living.

The vitality of the City is dependent upon the degree to which individual potential is developed. The approaches described in this element are not the only ones the City of Liberty Lake will use to try to help residents meet their needs. Each of the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan also describe complementary ways the City will approach these issues. The Housing Element, for example, includes goals to encourage, preserve, maintain, improve, and provide housing opportunities that are affordable to households. The Transportation Element describes the City's intent to make future development accessible to all citizens by many modes of travel, a goal which will help persons who report difficulty in getting to jobs and services. In short, community and human service policies that support the well-being of the City's residents can be found throughout the Comprehensive Plan, not only in the Community and Human Services Element. This element, however, focuses on those policies. The following are the element vision statements for community & human services:

### Community & Human Services Element Vision Statements<sup>1</sup>

1. Libraries, movie theaters, performing arts center, pedestrian-friendly area with nearby restaurants, fountains, park-like areas
2. City community center
3. Quality medical facilities
4. Promote unity within the city and surrounding communities, governments, and businesses

## B. History and Background

### Importance of Community and Human Services

The City of Liberty Lake's vision includes addressing community service needs by encouraging and supporting leading edge technology and a progressive business environment which will ensure a diverse, prosperous, and financially secure community. The availability of community services is important to the residents of the City, regardless of income, family structure, age, or cultural



<sup>1</sup> Vision Statements were created by the Planning Commission and City Council to reflect citizen comments.

background. It is important that the City's efforts in community services strive towards meeting the needs of all residents.



An important component in planning effective human services is an understanding of resident needs. Reviewing current trends and developing projections based on these trends is critical in establishing the future needs of the City's residents. Defining the human service needs of the community is not a static process. The City will periodically need to review, update, and understand the community's projected needs by using community meetings, forums and surveys of human service providers and clients. The resulting policies will address those services and programs valued by the community.

For individuals or families having difficulty meeting their basic human needs, the City of Liberty Lake should guide them to where help would be available for the following human service needs:

- Physical survival (food, drink, housing, clothing)
- Adequate preparation for and assistance in sustaining gainful employment (child care, employment, public transit, and training programs)
- Social support and interaction (social activities for disabled, family reconciliation, youth, and senior programs).
- Assistance in gaining access to available services (information and referral services)
- Assistance in overcoming specific pathologies (physical and mental health, substance abuse), and domestic violence

The following Figure 11.1 compares the demographics of the Liberty Lake area with that of Spokane County, and Washington State.

<b>Figure 11.1 - 2002 Demographics</b>	<b>Liberty Lake</b>	<b>Spokane County</b>	<b>WA State</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b> (4 person household)	\$64,560	\$46,625	\$48,564
<b>Average Single Family Home Sale Price</b>	\$194,590	\$104,600	\$170,703
<b>Housing Units (single family &amp; apartments)</b>	1360 single family + 521 apt.	100%	100%
Owner-Occupied (approx.)	72 %	65.5 %	64.6 %
Renter Occupied (approx.)	28 %	34.5 %	35.4 %
<b>Median Age</b>	35.8 years	35.4 years	35.3 years
% Children under 9 years	17.3	13.7	13.9
% Children / Teenagers 10 - 14 years	7.6	7.5	7.4
% Teenagers 15 - 19 years	5.5	7.9	7.3
% Adults 20 - 34 years	18.2	20.4	20.9
% Adults 35 - 44 years	18.4	15.8	16.5
% Adults 45 - 59 years	21.2	18.8	19.2
% Adults / Seniors 60 + years	11.8	15.9	14.8

<b>Households By Type - Total Households</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Family households (families)</b>	76.1 %	64.8	66
% w/ own children under 18 years	36.6	32.4	32.7
% Married-couple family	68.4	49.9	52.0
% w/ own children under 18 years	34.0	22.5	23.8
% Female householder, no husband present	5.3	11.0	9.9
% w/ own children under 18 years	3.7	7.4	6.5
<b>Non-Family households</b>	23.9 %	35.2	34
% Householder living alone	19.7	28.1	26.2
% Householder 65 years and over	4.7	9.6	8.1
<b>Households w/ Individuals Under 18 years</b>	41.2 %	34.7 %	35.2 %
<b>Households w/ Individuals 65 years +</b>	15.1 %	22.0 %	20.4 %
<b>Employment Status</b>			
<b>Population 16 years &amp; over</b>	100%	100%	100%
% In labor force	70.1 %	65.1 %	66.5 %
% Civilian labor force	69.7	64.2	65.4
% Employed	67.1	59.0	61.4
% Unemployed	2.7	5.1	4.1
% Armed Forces	0.4	1.0	1.1
% Not in labor force	29.9 %	34.9 %	33.5 %
<b>Females 16 years &amp; over</b>	100%	100%	100%
% In labor force	60.8 %	59.5 %	59.9 %
% Civilian labor force	60.6	59.1	59.7
% Employed	58.3	54.8	56.0
<b>Own children under 6 years of age</b>	100%	100%	100%
% All parents in labor force	55.8 %	60.5 %	57.6 %
<b>Occupations</b>	100%	100%	100%
Management, professional, & related	34.5 %	33.0 %	35.6 %
Sales & office	28.7 %	28.4 %	25.9 %
Production, transportation, & material moving	14.4 %	12.7 %	12.7 %
Construction, extraction, & maintenance	11.2 %	8.6 %	9.4 %
Service occupations	10.7 %	16.9 %	14.9 %
Farming, fishing, & forestry	0.4 %	0.4 %	1.6 %
<b>Class of Worker</b>	100%	100%	100%
Private wage & salary workers	78.7 %	77.1 %	76.1 %
Government workers	13.1 %	15.7 %	16.5 %
Self-employed in own, unincorporated bus.	7.5 %	6.9 %	7.2 %
Unpaid family workers	0.6 %	0.3 %	0.3 %

Note: Figures are from Census 2000 and Liberty Lake reflects the Liberty Lake CDP, not just City limits. Median Household Income has had 3% per year for 2001 & 2002 added to it and reflects all 99019 zip code. Average home sale price figures from Census 2000 had the average annual Spokane County assessed value increase of 3.68% added to the price for 2001 & 2002. WA State figures are from Census 2000 with average single family home sale price and payment being adjusted, and 3% per year for 2001 & 2002 being added to median household income.

Source: Planning & Community Development Dept. & US Census Bureau

## C. Goals and Policies

The Community and Human Services goals and policies are intended to provide a framework for identifying and servicing the community and human needs of the City's residents. They encourage a City partnership with existing private and public agencies to assure a coordinated approach in meeting identified needs. The following goals enhance the achievement of the City's vision to ensure a diverse, prosperous, and financially secure community.

### Goal

**CHS.1: Maintain and enhance the quality of life for the City of Liberty Lake residents by supporting programs which enhance personal and community living.**

#### Policies:

CHS.1.1: Support quality education.

CHS.1.2: Work cooperatively with businesses and the community to support programs that contribute to the City of Liberty Lake's quality of life.

CHS.1.3: Ensure government provides quality services and excellent infrastructure, including multimodal transportation. Plan for pedestrian trails, pathways, intra- and inter-city public transit throughout the City.

CHS.1.4: Support opportunities for recreational enjoyment of open space by providing a continuous network of trails, neighborhood parks, and recreational activities.

### Goal

**CHS.2: Promote opportunities for community service facilities, uses, and activities located and designed to meet resident needs.**

#### Policies:

CHS.2.1: Facilitate the siting and access for:

- a. Affordable housing
- b. Senior housing facilities
- c. Child care centers
- d. Senior Centers
- e. Churches
- f. Youth Centers
- g. Community Centers
- h. Libraries
- i. Health care facilities
- j. Schools

CHS.2.2: Plan for potential siting of community services where growth is anticipated.

CHS.2.3: Encourage planning and development of a public transit system that makes human service opportunities accessible for those who need basic and sustaining services.

CHS.2.4: Allow human service providers and other non-profits to use public facilities for community meetings and other uses as feasible.

CHS.2.5: Minimize the distance which children and youth must travel for educational services and encourage a closer bond between the community and its schools. (see CF.9.7)

## **Goal**

**CHS.3: Support and facilitate programs which provide for the City resident's basic human needs including food, clothing, shelter, primary health care, and protection from abuse and neglect.**

### **Policies**

CHS.3.1: Support various human needs assistance programs and identify public and private resources available to address the identified human service needs.

CHS.3.2: Support programs that make health care more accessible and affordable to persons with disabilities, elderly, and low income residents.

CHS.3.3: Support parenting classes and programs which provide relief for caregivers of elderly and persons with disabilities.

CHS.3.4: Prepare for the future needs of City residents, as appropriate, by reviewing current trends, conducting interviews, forums, community meetings, and surveys of human service providers to identify human service needs and develop needs projections based on these trends. Conduct periodic reviews of trends and update the community's projected needs.

## **Goal**

**CHS.4: Support a "Healthy Community" in which each individual has access to community resources and services.**

### **Policies**

CHS.4.1: Recognize that no one will maintain the health of our community unless we do it ourselves. Raise the awareness of the importance of a healthy community.

CHS.4.2: Support job training through partnerships with local businesses and schools that support an individual's access to a good living wage.

CHS.4.3: Encourage a stable job base and increasing the number of good living wage jobs.

CHS.4.4: Support affordable, quality, child care and encourage, through land use and regulations, child care facilities in close proximity to home and workplaces.

CHS.4.5: Through land use plans, regulations, and other assistance, support affordable and quality care facilities for working families responsible for elderly or adults with disabilities.

## **Goal**

**CHS.5: Foster community identity and leverage public investment by engaging private, extra-governmental resources and interests.**

### **Policies**

CHS.5.1: Encourage and utilize volunteer services consistent with reliable and efficient service delivery.

CHS.5.2: Form partnerships with nonprofit organizations to deliver superior service at or above the community's established minimum LOS.